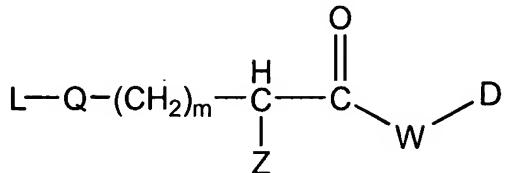


THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A biologically active polymer conjugate, comprising a water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer backbone having at least one terminus, said terminus being covalently bonded to the structure



wherein:

L is the point of bonding to the terminus of the polymer backbone;

Q is O or S;

10 m is 1 to about 20;

Z is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl and substituted aryl;

W is a linker; and

D is a biologically active agent.

15

2. The polymer conjugate of Claim 1, wherein W is selected from the group consisting of -O-, -S-, and -NH-.

- 20 3. The polymer conjugate of Claim 1, wherein D is selected from the group consisting of peptides, proteins, enzymes, small molecule drugs, dyes, lipids, nucleosides, oligonucleotides, cells, viruses, liposomes, microparticles and micelles.

- 25 4. The polymer conjugate of Claim 1, wherein the water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer backbone is selected from the group consisting of poly(alkylene glycol), poly(oxyethylated polyol), poly(olefinic alcohol), poly(vinylpyrrolidone), poly(hydroxypropylmethacrylamide), poly( $\alpha$ -hydroxy acid), poly(vinyl alcohol),

polyphosphazene, polyoxazoline, poly(N-acryloylmorpholine), and copolymers, terpolymers, and mixtures thereof.

5. The polymer conjugate of Claim 1, wherein the water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer is poly(ethylene glycol).

6. The polymer conjugate of Claim 5, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) has an average molecular weight from about 200 Da to about 100,000 Da.

10 7. The polymer conjugate of Claim 6, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) has an average molecular weight from about 6000 Da to about 80,000 Da.

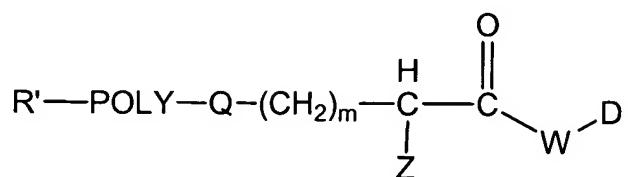
8. The polymer conjugate of Claim 1, wherein the water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer has from about 2 to about 300 termini.

15 9. The polymer conjugate of Claim 1, wherein Z is a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl or substituted alkyl.

20 10. The polymer conjugate of Claim 1, wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, t-butyl, and benzyl.

11. The polymer conjugate of Claim 1, wherein m is 1 to about 10.

25 12. The polymer conjugate of Claim 1, wherein the polymer has the structure:



wherein:

POLY is a water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer backbone; and  
R' is a capping group or a functional group.

13. The polymer conjugate of Claim 12, wherein R' is methoxy.

5

14. The polymer conjugate of Claim 12, wherein R' is a functional group selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, protected hydroxyl, active ester, active carbonate, acetal, aldehyde, aldehyde hydrate, alkenyl, acrylate, methacrylate, acrylamide, active sulfone, amine, protected amine, hydrazide, protected hydrazide, thiol, protected thiol, 10 carboxylic acid, protected carboxylic acid, isocyanate, isothiocyanate, maleimide, vinylsulfone, dithiopyridine, vinylpyridine, iodoacetamide, epoxide, glyoxal, dione, mesylate, tosylate, and tresylate.

15. The polymer conjugate of Claim 12, wherein POLY is poly(ethylene glycol).

15

16. The polymer conjugate of Claim 15, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) has an average molecular weight from about 200 Da to about 100,000 Da.

17. The polymer conjugate of Claim 16, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) has an 20 average molecular weight from about 6000 Da to about 80,000 Da.

18. The polymer conjugate of Claim 12, wherein Z is a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl or substituted alkyl.

25 19. The polymer conjugate of Claim 12, wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, t-butyl, and benzyl.

20. The polymer conjugate of Claim 12, wherein m is 1 to about 10.

30